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U. S. Counterspies Doing Good Job Ferreting Russ Atom, Other Secrets

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WASHINGTON—There is growing indication here that American counterspy operations have come of age, and that Uncle Sam no longer is a chump at the global game of ferreting out secrets of other nations—if he ever was!

Latest confirmation of this, of course, was the instant corroboration by United States authorities of the Soviet claim of an H-bomb explosion. How did our intelligence experts know?

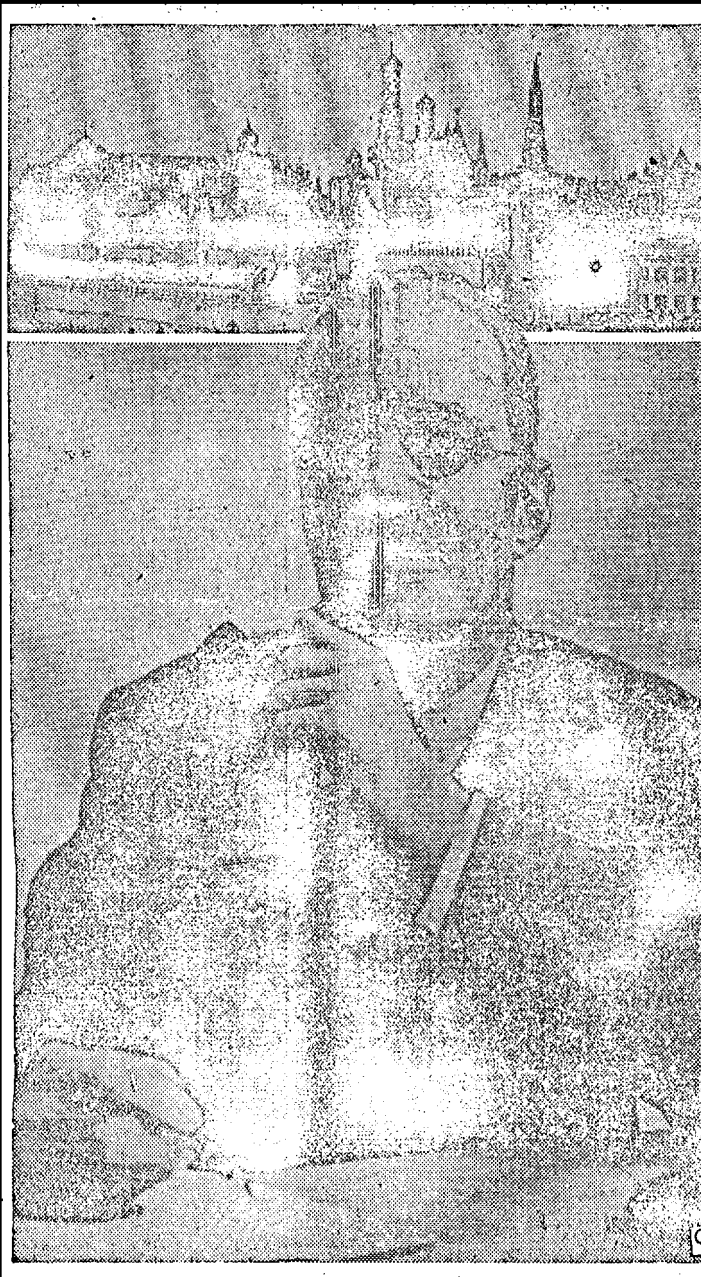
That is top secret indeed. However, from far off Australia come speculations that give a hint. The editors "down under" are having a field day telling how a United States B-29 arrived at Auckland, New Zealand, five days after the British A-bomb test at Monte Bello.

The plane, according to the Australians, did not declare its radio presence until only an hour away from Auckland. It appeared to be specially fitted, and carried a crew of 11 instead of the usual eight. The excuse of a training flight seemed flimsy, and it took off soon after servicing for parts unknown.

The Australians speculate that the United States maintains a vast atomic patrol system sampling the atmosphere of the Pacific for radioactive particles. That is one of three possible ways that this country could know as much as it apparently does about Soviet atomic development.

Another is to detect earth shocks with instruments used to record earthquakes, Gordon Dean, retiring chairman of the Atomic Energy commission, hinted at a third when he said last June that the United States has "sources of information" inside Russia.

Then he clammed up quickly, adding that, "We do not want to tip off Russia on the sources of information we have in the U.S.S.R." This could explain how British and American intelligence seem to be able to trace the movements behind the Iron Curtain of one Bruno Pontecorvo, renegade British atomic expert, who has been heralded as having heralded new atomic tests.



Central Intelligence Agency's Allen Dulles in thoughtful mood. Top view is the Kremlin, world Communist headquarters.

Soviet mine bosses are suffering nervous breakdowns from frantic speedup programs. The U.S.S.R. is worried by a scarcity of fuel oil. So it goes, on and on about internal Russian affairs.

You can let your imagination run about cloak and dagger activities by American foreign agents. When the Central Intelligence Agency was created after World War II, the United States for the first time in its history provided for peacetime espionage on a fight-fire-with-fire basis.

The budget of Allen Dulles' agency is shrouded in secrecy. That the Russians are extremely sensitive about it is indicated by Vishinsky's blast against "the United States fund for spies," saying nothing, of course, about Russia's huge operation. This is a development that Uncle Sam came to reluctantly, but which presumably is progressing and producing gratifying results.

Recapitulations of the exploits of American intelligence agents in World War II provides ample evidence that they are not without aptitude.

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The details slowly being revealed in piece-meal fashion as footnotes to history tell how Nazi war output was projected with pinpoint accuracy; a pipeline into the German general staff told us that the Nazis would invade Russia six months before they did (the Soviets rejected our warnings!)

A microphone was smuggled into a Yamachita staff meeting in Manila, so that Gen. Douglas MacArthur had a word-for-word account of Japanese plans for defense of Luzon, and many other similar exploits.

It is axiomatic among authorities on espionage, however, that two other avenues often produce big results: the product of painstaking research into "open" sources, and windfalls in the shape of data sent in unexpectedly by unknown friends behind opposing lines.

* * *
In the last category falls detailed notes and sketches an American aviation magazine was able to publish of the new Russian twin-jet bomber, the Ilyushin 28. An observer, on assignment from the magazine, accumulated them over a two-year period. Talk about leaks in security!

Ingenious putting of two-and-two together nets big results from research programs such as those going on at Columbia university, where all Soviet scientific publications are translated, and at the Harvard university Russian research center.

An article sometime ago in Izvestia, saying that deuterium was available for Soviet experimentation, may have told atomic scientists as much or more about the H-bomb's stage of development as the more spectacular methods for spotting the Russian bomb test.

All of which possibly adds up to a legitimate conclusion that Uncle Sam's toes at last, as a counterspy,

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